

\*----- ST REPORT ONLINE MAGAZINE -----\*  
"The Original 16/32bit Online Magazine"

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from  
STR Publishing Inc.  
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STReport Online Magazineâ €  
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\*\* F-NET NODE 350 \*\* 500mb Online \*\*  
STR'S owned & operated support BBS  
carries ALL issues of STReport Online Magazine  
and  
An International list of private BBS systems  
carrying STReport Online Magazine for their users enjoyment

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> 06/15/90: STReportâ € #6.24 The Original 16/32 bit Online Magazine!

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ST REPORT ONLINE MAGAZINEâ €  
"Only UP-TO-DATE News and Information"  
-\* FEATURING \*-

Current Events, Up to Date News, Hot Tips, and Information  
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STReport's support BBS, NODE # 350 invites systems using Forem ST BBS to  
participate in Forem BBS's F-Net mail network. Or, Please call # 350  
direct at 904-786-4176, and enjoy the excitement of exchanging ideas about  
the Atari ST computers through an excellent International ST Mail Network.

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> The Editor's Podiumâ €

There are those who like to paint the grimmest of grim pictures, then comes those who have already buried the patient. As far as we are concerned the patient is on the road to recovery. Never before has so much of the story been told directly to the powers that be. Maybe we are fortunate and maybe not but at least you and the rest of us who are genuinely concerned can say we tried and we are still trying to have a catalytic effect on the ways the Katzenjammer do things.

As always, we find those who say the truth is hurting the industry. To that we say to hide the truth will damage the industry for time and eternity as far as credibility is concerned. If we those directly involved in this industry cannot criticize and effect change then,... truly all is for naught. Atari has made some mighty serious mistakes in the past but that should be behind them now. We must continue to be vigilant in making sure the same mistakes don't occur again but at the same time, encourage and help hasten Atari's 'new leaf'.

Typically, the summer is the 'slow time' for computing. This summer however, is going to be especially hot in the Atari arena. The metamorphosis will take place across this summer and hopefully lead us into the fall season and Comdex Fall/90 where Atari is expected to show an entirely new representation of themselves. No more Day School, No more Atari University. All PRO and eager and ready for strong business. We shall see.....

Thanks for your continued strong support,

Ralph.....

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> CPU REPORTâ ¢  
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Issue # 71  
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by Michael Arthur

Remember When....

In November 1971, Intel introduced the first microprocessor, the 4004 chip (which had come out of research towards an easily programmable calculator chip), or when Intel introduced the first 8-bit microprocessor, called the 8008 chip, in April 1972?

Or when, in April 1974, Intel introduced the 8080 chip (which became the first industry-standard microprocessor, and much of the basis of the CP/M standard), shortly before Motorola announced the 6800 chip in August?

CPU INSIGHTSâ €  
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Evidence found of "Hacker Witch Hunt" in Secret Service Efforts  
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Mitch Kapor, founder of Lotus Corp., has started investigations into symptoms that the recent "Operation Sun Devil investigation", in which the Secret Service investigated computer "crackers" (a nickname for "safecrackers") in over a dozen cities for alleged computer crimes. Kapor has found several reports of disturbing incidents occurring during the investigation, including those of severe harassment during search operations. Also, he mentioned that for the mass confiscation of equipment (over 42 computers and thousands of disks) resulting from the investigation, that only a few indictments have been made so far....

Kapor is now trying to collect information on the Secret Service's actions in the course of "Operation Sun Devil's" execution of 27 search warrants. These actions are the source of several reports on Internet, including ones of agents "bursting in on 14 year old at 6 AM, holding fathers and little sisters at gunpoint, putting mothers in choke holds." While very little specific information about "Operation Sun Devil" has been released by the government, Kapor is working with two law firms to "get a better picture of what's happened here". If the evidence that is found points to such "terrorist tactics", one law firm working with Kapor has stated that three types of actions are being considered:

- 1) Aid in criminal defenses.
- 2) Efforts to get confiscated property returned
- 3) "Affirmative lawsuits on behalf of bulletin board operators claiming that their rights have been violated by the actions of the authorities" in Operation Sun Devil.

Steve Wozniak and Dan Bricklin (developer of VisiCalc) have said that they feel Kapor's concern is healthy. Bricklin has said that people must distinguish the differences between criminals using computers and innocent computer users going "online" must be drawn more clearly, and has also expressed concerns about "First Amendment Protection concerns" in the area of computer crime legislation. Also, Steve Wozniak has pledged his full support (both in terms of financial and legal assistance concerns) to Kapor in his efforts, and has expressed concerns over "media hysteria" in the recent attitude towards computer hackers being "white collar criminals"....

Among other things, Bricklin also commented whether BBS equipment could "be seized because someone else puts illegal information onto the (BBS) system". He also said that if this trend continued, that the government could be deemed able to confiscate an entire corporation's communications systems (computer-based or otherwise) if someone left illegal items on them.

Interestingly, the Secret Service (in response to a request by the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights concerning its agents' methods of investigating computer fraud) recently admitted to using informants and undercover agents to secretly monitoring bulletin boards and online networks, in direct response to charges of criminal

activities. It has said that it doesn't keep records of the systems it monitors, but can access information on systems upon request. A part of the House Subcommittee, Rep. Edwards has stated that, "Every time there is a perceived crisis, law-enforcement agencies and legislators overreact and usually due process and civil liberties suffer. The Fourth Amendment provides strict limits on rummaging through people's property."

CPU Systems Roundup ¢ XXX  
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SPARCStations, General Electric, and Actions of the Rising Sun  
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Sun Microsystems has recently announced a small RISC-based (reduced instruction set chip) computer aimed at the "X-Terminal" arena, a segment of the low-end Unix workstation market which both the Amiga 3000, and the upcoming 68030 TT are poised for. Called the SPARCStation SLC, it is targeted at the growing market for diskless computers which can be used as inexpensive X/Windows-capable Terminals for LAN Networks. This system comes with a 20 MHZ SPARC processor that can perform at 12.5 MIPS (million instructions per second), and a Weitek 3170 Math Chip capable of processing 1.2 MFLOPS (Million floating point operations per second). It comes with 8 Megabytes of RAM standard, three ports (SCSI, Ethernet, and parallel ports), and has a 1152\*900 monochrome resolution. Cost: \$5000.00.

The SLC's 9x7 inch motherboard fits in the back of its 17-inch monochrome monitor, and the entire system is designed so only a monitor and a keyboard & mouse are visible to the user. By this design, Sun has also made it possible for faster versions of the SLC to be easily installed as upgrades to existing systems. However, it cannot be expanded in other ways, such as adding a color display (Sun is developing a color monitor version of the SLC), or other Expansion cards. The SPARCStation SLC will be compatible with the more than 2,000 applications available for the SPARC chip (called SPARCware), and will also run AT&T System V.3 with Sun's Open Look GUI (Graphical user Interface).

Sun has also recently made significant gains in increasing the acceptance of its new SPARCStation standard. Several Sun Porting Centers, including several in the US and Canada, have been established to aid Third-Party Software Developers in porting their software to run on SPARC-based systems. Also, Yale University has recently selected the Sun SPARCStation as the standard computer system for 8 of their Academic Departments, including Psychology, Engineering, Economics, and Computer Science. Students using PCs or Macs can access files on two of Yale's 10 SPARCServer 390s via modems or an AppleTalk network, and Yale has purchased over 200 Sun SPARCStation 1s at the present time. Also, General Electric Co. recently chose Sun as one of their main suppliers of Unix-based workstations for its divisions. Sun estimates that they could gain revenues of around \$50 - \$100 million within the next few years because of this agreement. Interestingly enough, GE chose Sun because of the wide support available for the SPARCStation, both in terms of software availability and "mundane" technical support....

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## ZedCor Introduces Desk - Integrated Software Set

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Zedcor Inc. is planning to introduce Desk, a set of seven Mac Desk Accessories which function as a modular integrated software package. Desk consists of this software:

- DeskCalc, a spreadsheet with chart/graph capability
- DeskCom, a telecommunications program w/Background File Transfers
- DeskSecretary, an Appointment Calendar/Memo program
- DeskWrite, a word processor program
- DeskFile, a flat-file database program
- DeskPaint, a 32-bit Color QuickDraw paint program w/autotracing
- DeskDraw, a 32-bit object-oriented drawing program

Designed to be used in tandem, these desk accessories are file-format compatible with each other. Also, a simple form of interapplication communication is employed, so changes made on a file in one program are automatically accounted for in another one. For example, if a chart made in DeskCalc is copied into DeskDraw and edited, then the changes will also appear automatically in DeskCalc. Cost: \$400.00.

But ponder, if you will, this question:

1) What constitutes "support" in the computer industry?

> CPU STATUS REPORTâ €                    >>> LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS <<<  
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- Santa Clara, CA    SEYBOLD, DATAQUEST JOIN FORCES FOR PUBLISHING PROJECTS  
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Andrew Seybold, a leading consultant on the desktop publishing industry, and Dataquest Inc. (a leading market research and consulting firm dealing with the computer industry) have announced that they will be working together on a series of publishing projects.

Seybold currently runs a consulting/publishing/product research firm called ASCII, which produces a computer industry newsletter called "The Outlook". Under this agreement, Dataquest will begin marketing this magazine, and ASCII will produce a series of reports on trends in Portable Computing, which will be jointly sold by ASCII and Dataquest.

Formed in 1983, "The Outlook" (or "Seybold's Outlook on Personal Computing") is a magazine dealing with happenings in the microcomputer world (with an emphasis on DTP), and providing product reviews of upcoming products. Seybold expects "The Outlook" to double its circulation within a year, and his magazine may soon become a VERY prominent computer

industry magazine....

- Cambridge, MA      OSF ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR UNIX-BASED DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING  
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As part of its development of OSF/1 (a new version of Unix), the Open Software Foundation has announced plans to use several technologies for its Distributed Computing Environment (or DCE). With DCE, an OSF/1 computer hooked up to a LAN Network will be able to use the combined processing resources of every available computer on that LAN Network to perform tasks. As per OSF's custom, DCE will include features from different Unix Vendors, in order to support applications written for each Unix Vendor's system. The DEC technologies include:

- Hewlett Packard's NCS/RPC Distributed Processing System
- DECdns and DECdts from Digital Equipment Corp.
- Sun Microsystems' Network File System (NFS)
- LM/X PC from Microsoft Corp.

- Monroe, MI          PD UTILITY PROVIDES VIRUS PROTECTION DURING FILE COPYING  
-----

Hilgraeve Inc. has recently released HCOPY, an MS-DOS utility which features real-time filtering of viruses during file copy operations, to the public as "freeware". HCOPY is used like DOS's COPY command, but can detect over 68 different DOS viruses. If a file which is being copied is found to be infected, HCOPY displays a warning identifying the virus and allowing the user to abort the request to copy that file. Hilgraeve Inc. makes a \$200.00 MS-DOS terminal program named HyperAccess/5, which has HCOPY's underlying virus screening technology built-in, for use in file transfer operations. In case you may want to request that they make such a program for the ST, Hilgraeve Inc.'s BBS number is 1-313-243-5915....

- Orem, UT          IMPROVED SUPPORT, WINDOWS 3.0 VERSION OF WORDPERFECT PLANNED  
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WordPerfect Corporation has recently announced that it will be shipping a version of Word Perfect for Microsoft Windows 3.0 before it ships a version for OS/2 Presentation Manager. This is noteworthy in that Word Perfect announced an OS/2 PM-based Wordperfect in Fall Comdex 1989, and said it would be shipping in June. However, it is speculated that "WordPerfect for Windows" is simply a port of the OS/2 PM Version, which was delayed because of the tremendous popularity of Windows 3.0. Also, it is interesting to note that when WordPerfect Version 5.1 was announced, that a "major update" with "a true Graphical User Interface" was mentioned by a few as being "in the works"....

Also, WordPerfect Corp. is now using a "hold jockey" to monitor its 200 Customer Support Lines and inform callers of information like how many people are waiting in line ahead of them to ask questions, and how long they can expect to wait. Background music and ads for upcoming

Wordperfect products are also featured....

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> ATARI APOCALYPSE STR Spotlightâ € Atari's Exchange Program now a GOUGE  
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FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS  
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segment two

The Users be Damned!

by R. F. Mariano

For quite some time we have enjoyed the security of Atari's fine equipment exchange program, with it's realistic costs and excellent service. Now comes Mr. Eager Beaver executive who felt he needed to do "something" to brighten the day when the dismal figures came out for the quarter.

Along comes Mr. "Work Every Day Joe" who took anywhere from one to ten percent of his annual income to purchase his "pride and joy" Atari ST computing system... Joe and all the users just like him enjoy using their computers and most do so everyday. One bright and sunny afternoon, Joe turned on his computer and witnessed a small mushroom cloud rise slowly and deliberately from the vents of his beloved 1040 ST....Oh no! After checking the receipts, he found he has had the computer for over 4 months. NO MORE WARRANTY. Not to worry Joe, Atari has one of the very best exchange programs in the industry, many good users have barely lost a step in their daily enjoyment of using the Atari ST Computer Line. When one considers the cost of a Mega ST4 and SLM 804, the Desktop Publishing System, and then read the warranty -> 90 days!! <- it becomes somewhat shocking, to the person who has just dropped a few thousand dollars on that new computer system, that it's covered for only 3 months!

Most dealers and users comfort themselves in the security of the exchange program, the dealers had an excellent selling point and the end user knew, that if anything did happen to his equipment, he could, for a nominal fee, get it either fixed or replaced.

Enter Mr. Eager Beaver Executive; "HEY! LET'S DOUBLE AND TRIPLE THE EXCHANGE RATES, THAT'LL HELP MAKE UP THE LOSSES!! WHAT A WONDERFUL IDEA!" ..This "jewel of leader" gloats to himself. (Picture, if you will, an angel on one of his shoulders and the devil on the other) The sweet little angel whispers, don't do this, you will hurt hundreds of users and

force them to regard a broken computer as a throw-away. It is wrong! Outraged, the devil screams in the other ear; awww, go ahead give 'em the business! they'll only squawk for a little while!

Folks ..the DEVIL WON! Atari has drastically increased the exchange rates for both the users and the dealers.

The saddest part is the 'OTHER' JUSTIFICATION IS EVEN WORSE! We have been told that the "true" cause for the increase is a direct result of the actions of a few 'less than honest' individuals. That's right, A FEW dishonest users "seem" to have taken advantage of Atari's exchange program; "they sent in older 520stfm units (working) with single sided drives and got back 520stf units with double sided drives. To that we say if Atari had "played the game straight from the getgo"... these infractions would never had occurred! Atari 'secretly' shipped all the original D/SD/D drives to their Federated Chain and neglected the authorized dealer chain. Now... Federated is gone.... and the dealer chain is almost non-existent. And still, the exchange program remains RAPED!

Drastic = DOUBLED AND TRIPLED!

The "End User Cost" has risen to a point where it no longer makes sense to have the exchange program in place. Could this possibly be one of the reasons why a bright guy like Dendo is not there now, perhaps, he disagreed with putting the "short end of the stick" to the dealers, new and old alike. We KNOW Dendo had good results (numbers) coming in. We KNOW the dealers liked Dendo. The cost to the user is now roughly 50% of factory recommended retail prices. Another fine example of progressive, positive, decision making at Atari! Simply put, it is an insult to the userbase. Obviously, this move appears to be a plain old fashioned gouge. In any case, it should be rescinded or, at least, reviewed and modified!

Aside from the obvious, the second most blatant slap in the face is this; Remember when Sam Tramiel asked that we ALL become evangelists? Most folks and Usergroups chuckled because they already were very busy promoting the ST to friends, neighbors and folks they were socializing or doing business with. All in all, it was very satisfying to see those people who bought an ST at our urging and found it to be as satisfying as we do. The obvious question here is what does this have to do with the "jacked up prices" for the exchange goods? Answer: Nothing really, unless you care to look at it this way...

Could Sam and his brothers be so cold as to forget the SOLID UNDYING loyalty and support we gave and continue to give through the thin impossible times? Is it really possible that Sam and his brothers look at us as being purely 'expendable'? Are all the indicators true that they are trying to penetrate a different market level in a different country? Is this really the 'payback' for the months of relatively blind loyal fellowship and support for Atari while THEY were busy bestowing their offerings upon the European marketplace and now, Russia?

In our humble opinion, Atari has dealt a rather severe blow to the loyal users and dealers new and old alike. The world, universally, has condemned "GROUP PUNISHMENT" yet Atari, in its infinite wisdom, has done just this in its "SOLUTION" of eliminating the possibility of the occasional abuse of an excellent defective equipment exchange program.

ATARI MUST, WITHOUT HESITATION, RESTORE THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO IT'S



FORMER STATE. The goodwill generated by this move would far outweigh any meager monetary benefits derived from the increased tariffs. Besides, this would definitely be the least expensive way to reach a good majority of the users in a most positive manner. The exchange program, once again, was the envy of the industry and one of the strongest selling points for the Computer lines in light of the "puny" 90 day warranty. Perhaps, the brightest facet of the program was the mighty fact that Atari had not forgotten those whose 90 day warranty had expired.

THE NEW EXCHANGE PRICES TO THE END USER, WHO HAS PROBLEMS WITH HIS ATARI PRODUCTS AND HAS HAD HIS EQUIPMENT LONGER THAN THE NINETY DAY PERIOD, ARE OUTRAGEOUS.

#### EXAMPLES OF THE OUTRAGEOUS PRICE INCREASES:

PRODUCT	LIST PRICE	DEALER EXCHANGE		USER EXCHANGE	
		Old	- New	Old	- New
SC1224 Color Monitor	\$399.95	95.00	175.00	95.00	260.00
SM124 Mono Monitor	\$199.95	60.00	80.00	60.00	130.00
.5mb Computer System	\$399.95	115.00	115.00	115.00	300.00
1mb Computer System	\$599.95	125.00	125.00	125.00	375.00
2mb Computer System	\$ 899.95	175.00	265.00	175.00	525.00
4mb Computer System	\$1399.95	225.00	350.00	225.00	675.00
SLM 804 Laser Printer	\$ 999.95	425.00	700.00	Dealer Only	

Folks, those users who have no dealer(s) within a reasonable distance from their homes or those who have a poor relationship with their \* only \* dealer for "hundreds" of miles are really put to the gaff. By all surface appearances, it looks like the unimaginative minds at the top at Atari were not even "slightly considering" the "LOYAL, EVANGELISTIC" users when these new tariffs were slapped in place. In the long run the dealers and the users will eventually feel the effects of this catastrophic decision and policy change. The present Atari leadership really outdid themselves with this slick, uncaring move. When this complaint was first brought to Sam Tramiel, during an online conference, he mentioned he would "look into the situation" and..... as usual, just so much fodder...

Well Sam... the time is at hand. The present leaders at Atari have darn near run Atari slap into the ground. Will you please allow some real professionals to re-organize and run the company? Step ASIDE.. take an extended vacation anything! PLEASE! And take your brothers with you!

The Katzenjammer has managed to put the cobs to Atari, to us the users, the dealers and developers. The dealer network is virtually non existant, solid commercial software development concerns have a very cautious hands off approach toward Atari if the Katzenjammer are involved in the negotiations. The knee jerk retribution, (to name only one; The Atari Explorer Fiasco) the Katzenjammer have so capably demonstrated to the entire userbase truly indicates the level of destructive emotional extremes the Katzenjammer will and do go to.

NEXT... The Developer Program; and how the Katzenjammer have clobbered it too.

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> STE's Future STR OnLineâ ¢ A few reader/user opinion's....  
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ATARI'S REQUIRED READING  
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Conf : Atari 16/32 Bit  
Msg# : 6282 Lines: 20 Read: 1  
Sent : Jun 14, 1990 at 10:08 AM  
To : DAVE LOCKWOOD  
From : ELECTRON BEAM at Bloom County #75 Mtn. View, CA  
Subj : Re: <6213> Atari Petition!

In reply to:

> As for the STe, I have what I want from my ST already, and I have 4 Meg  
> 4096 color palette now to boot. Atari's just beating a dead horse  
(boy  
> I gonna get flamed for that one (-: )...the STe is years late and many  
> features short.

Dave, they can flame you if they want...but you are 100% correct. I am living proof. I bought my 1040 ST a couple of years ago. I was very happy with it, but being a musician with a good ear, very frustrated by the rather weak sound. A friend of mine had both an ST and an A500. It just got to where I could not stand the graphic and sound superiority of his A500 anymore, so I went out and bought one. Would I have done this if I had originally purchased a 1040 STe...the answer is obviously NO!! The STe is 5 years late and that is all there is to it. I need two computers because of the BBS, but they would have been a 1040 STe and a used 1 Meg 520 (for the BBS) if the STe had existed when it SHOULD have. So, any Atari Apologists that want to can also flame me...but it is Atari's fault I own an Amiga...not mine!!

EB

Conf : Atari 16/32 Bit  
Msg# : 6268 Lines: 8 Read: 1  
Sent : Jun 14, 1990 at 5:18 PM  
To : ALL  
From : WOMBAT at The Bre(/\)ery \_ Ajax\_Canada \_  
Subj : STE/hard drives

Looking through messages here I was surprised that no one seems to have experienced a recent problem of mine. On switching from an STfm to an STe I had MAJOR hard drive problems, which made the HD virtually

unusable. Atari Canada tried to be helpful but didnt seem to know what was going on. They now say they are waiting on a TOS upgrade and have given me an STfm to use in the meantime. I am wondering if it is only the TOS that is at fault as I have heard it suggested that the DMA chip used in recent machines is also a contributor. Anyone know the whole story?

Conf : Atari 16/32 Bit  
Msg# : 6269 Lines: 14 Read: 1  
Sent : Jun 14, 1990 at 7:07 PM  
To : WOMBAT  
From : BREWMASTER at The Bre(/\)ery \_ Ajax\_Canada \_  
Subj : Re: <6268> STE/hard drives

I talked to you about this earlier...For the last 18 months,I have not seen an Atari that will work on an old SH204 host adapter,as Atari changed the specs and supplier on the DMA chip.At least Supra Corp was honest enough to acknowledge it,and offer a trade in policy on their host adapters for the HD,where Atari,the company who made the changes,ignores the consumer again.Atari Canada knows all about it,and had the exact problem with Shawn Smiths' hard drive. For them to say they don't know anything about it,is quite ridiculous. The SH205 falls into the same problem as the SH204,as it uses the same design of host integrated into the controller board.

A tos fix will not resolve this problem in the least,as it is a hardware fault.How long can a company continue to operate,making design changes to it's machines,and not support the consumer on other Atari products they bought(specifically,the SH204/205) previously??

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> PCD II 2 WEEKS? STR FOCUSâ ¢ ONLY 2 WEEKS TO DECIDE AYE or NAY??!!??  
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WHO WROTE AG'S RULEBOOK?  
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E.GORELIK posts;

Well, I did manage to get through the Avant-Garde today, had a lengthy talk with Jeff, and found out some things which other Ditto users might want to know.

RIBBON CABLES:

AG has purchased a 100-ft length of shielded cable (which is the only kind that can be used successfully with the unit) and is willing to sell

it in any desired lengths to PCD-II users at \$8/ft (no shipping chgs). If you return your original 1-ft length (in like-new condition only), they will credit you \$16 towards purchase of the longer cable. I'm afraid I forgot to ask whether they will also put the connectors on the longer cables, but I suspect they won't, since Jeff gave me information about purchasing the connectors. You can use a gold or tin 34-pin, and a gold or tin 26-pin socket connector, both female, with or without strain relief. They're available at Radio Shack. They can also be gotten from Digitkey (1-800-344-4539) in Minnesota, the parts #'s being ASC34G-ND (gold 34) ASC34T-ND (tin 34), ASC26G-ND (gold 26), and ASC26T-ND (tin 26). Prices are about \$2-\$3, with the tin slightly cheaper than the gold.

AG has thoroughly tested installed ribbon lengths up to 18". Beyond that, they have no firsthand knowledge of how performance of the unit will be affected or degraded. Reports from users have indicated that up to 24" there does not seem to be a problem, but anything beyond 18" you take your chances, and how the system might be slowed down or degraded due to increased capacitance and resistance present in a longer cable is as yet unknown.

As far as installation of the cables goes, one method Jeff described for those who want to place the unit outside the case was routing the ribbon through the crevice between the metal DMA port and plastic case.

#### INSTALLING THE BOARD:

Jeff confirmed that the board can't be installed without removing the center post from the ST's case, which he claimed was nonfunctional anyhow, and merely used for machining purposes in constructing the case (at least that's what I understood him to say), and that the presence of the PCD-II unit in the case would firm up the case anyhow. As expected, he confirmed that the board couldn't be installed together with the RF shield--you'll have to keep the latter off--unless, of course, you're routing the board outside the case.

#### FUTURE PLANS:

I asked whether they had any plans to decrease the size of the board. The answer was that they had looked into this, and found that they could decrease the length by 2" and width by 3/4", but that doing so wouldn't affect the problems of installing it in a 520ST (which I found hard to understand). Whether or not they will eventually go to the smaller size depends on how well the product sells. When I asked whether they considered selling an external PCD-II, I got the same response: depends on sales volume of the initial unit. When I asked about going to surface mount technology for the board, he replied that they had no plans to do so, because of the unit's thickness--it contains six separate layers; going to s.m.t. would necessitate fitting all of those layers into a single layer, so that although the board would become very thin, it would also become too wide and long, and hence wouldn't ease the problems of fitting the unit inside an ST.

When I asked about revision D motherboards seeming to have special problems working with PCD-II he denied that they were exceptional or different from any others in regard to compatibility with the unit.

As expected, current boards are being sent out with the new PAL chips and the latest software (what's up on GENIE now--the 1.0001 files). And those getting their boards at this time have 2 weeks in which to make a decision about keeping them.

--Eugene

ctsy: GENie

Editor Note:

It seems kind of unfair to read that the recipients of PCDI have only TWO WEEKS to decide if they care to keep the thing or not. When one considers that the average user has waited considerably longer than that just for the delivery of this infamous product. The least they could do is allow the users 30 days to decide. With the summer here, its vacation time and many will not be around when they are delivered their "long awaited" item. AG should seriously reconsider this 'mickey mouse' two week tinme limit.

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> SLAP STReport! STR SOUND OFFâ € Nothin' like killin' the "messenger"!  
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READER LASHES OUT STREPORT  
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As usual, in trying times, when the news is not the greatest there are those who feel they must vent their anger at the messenger who brings the unhappy stories. Such is the case here, but in all fairness to the reader STReport felt obligated to allow everyone to see this young man's message. Believe it or not, we sympathize with this fellow, but at the same time graciously point out that his anger should be directed at the cause of all the grief. The three Tramiels running "the show."

Of course the passage below is filled with emotion and carries littel if any real facts other than the personal information provided by the writer. Again, it is very easy to sympathize with this writer. We also present a number of posts extracted from GENie, where substantially well known users also voice rather strong discontent with Atari Corp.

B.Greger posts; in an uploaded message on GENie;

Another week has gone by, and after reading the gloom, doom, and despair of STReport, I find myself wondering why I ever purchased an Atari Computer. It usually takes a lot for me to get vocal, but I feel compelled to speak out now. I have owned an Atari ever since the 1200XL came out. Even though the system was an 8bit, I really enjoyed it. That 8bit was my introduction into computing and it sold me on computers. Then in 1985, the ST's came into being. My mouth "drooled" at the thought of having so much power for a reasonable price. I jumped on the ST bandwagon and purchased a 520ST without ROMS and two DS disk drives. The only

software for the machine was Logo, and a few programs from Haba Software. I remember the first time I turned on the machine... I could not keep my mouth shut. You know how your mouth forms an "O" when you get surprised, well mine stayed that way for at least a week. I just could not get over how easy the machine was to operate. Later I purchased the ROMS when they became available and almost every piece of software that was released....even Haba "C".

Can anyone remember that program? By this time, the 1040ST was out and I ended up swapping up to it. I now had a whole Meg of RAM and a built in drive. Good news and praise for the machine was all I ever read. Even Byte magazine covered the Atari in several of their issues. Atari appeared to have a very bright future. As time went on, and software became plentiful, I kept upgrading. I now have 2.5megs in my 1040, a Spectre GCR, color & mono monitors, HP LaserJet IIP, FaST 85meg HD, Cardinal 2400baud modem with MNP level 5, and lot's of software. There are some very talented people producing GREAT Hardware Hacks and Software Hacks for the Atari, and I support their efforts by purchasing their products.

This brings me up to now. Week after week I kept reading about Atari's demise in STReport and a few other online mag's, and week after week I began to wonder if I should sell my machine and go IBM or Mac. Well, to STReport and any other magazine that wishes to publish nothing but doom for the Atari, I say NO! What I am going to do is stop READING your magazine. There are so many good things the Atari computers can do that all of the articles in these mags could easily focus on Productivity instead of Destructivity. (Not sure if that's a word or not but it fits). I have to agree with the magazine that Atari is rolling downhill pretty fast, but giving it a push over the edge is not the answer. Focusing on positive aspects of the computer and getting the most bang for the buck is still the way to win friends and influence people. The Spectre GCR and Turbol6 are about the best hardware hacks I have seen and I am putting back a little money each week so I can get the Tl6 installed.

Being able to run Mac software out of the box is a REAL THRILL and it brings back some of the enthusiasm I felt when I first purchased my ST. I know of at least 10 people who have purchased Atari Computers because of me showing off it's capabilities. Just one look at what all these fantastic machines can do, and almost everyone wants one. The biggest hurdle for Atari has always been in Advertising and Letting people know about their machine. Well, Atari does not appear to be interested in this, and they just might sink because of it, but a magazine that preaches Atari's demise week after week only speeds up this process. Come On Guys! Let's pull together and focus on what the machine can do! I for one am very tired of the BASHING! Every computer has it's problems, and Atari has it's share. Well, enough of this. I just felt I had to express my opinion. I wish only the BEST for anyone supporting the Atari Computers, and I have started writing to Software Publishers and letting them know I appreciate their efforts toward Atari Software.

One Guy's Opinion!

Ross Greger (B.GREGER)

K.ALBURY [Blade Runner] posts;

I, too am getting worried about the future of Atari in the U.S.A.

I've been with Atari since those old (and great) days of "pong" & "super pong" and think it's really sad what the brass at Atari has done to themselves. And the end users. I mean, when the ST came out, they really pushed it well and said things like "we're not a game company" & "the ST is better than an I.B.M.". So we bought the ST and it still makes us happy.

However, here we are, a few years latter, and NO advertising, next to no support, little software, etc. And low and behold, Atari is now releasing it's new GAME machine and I.B.M. compatable. Plenty of advertising, support, and software for these systems, but little for the ST. I feel like I've been shafted. I'm glad Atari is making new and good products but I wish they would at least try to give us the same support we've given them. I mean if it wern't for our support, they would have been gone along time ago. And now that we're in need all I hear from Atari is empty promises and how well the European market is doing. I just wish they would give us a REAL answer. If you're going to support us, than SUPPORT us. If your not, then DON'T. Just please stop taking us for a ride.

D.GAXIOLA posts;

I've been a fairly loyal Atarian all of my life practically. Since the third grade I've had an Atari computer, an Atari 800 with 48k of memory, an 810 disk drive, and a 410 tape recorder. It served me well over the years and I accomplished a lot with it. Games, word processing, and keeping track of my comic books were regular tasks with the Atari. Just as I found myself becoming confined with it, just as I was yearning for something more, there was the Atari 1040ST, which could not be compared with the older 8-bit machine. So away with the ol' 800 and 810 (by then both had died and been replaced with a 65XE and XF-551) and in came the new Sixteen-Thirty computer.

For four years, or thereabouts, I was content with its power. I was still the leader in computer use among my friends. While they were just beginning to discover the benefits of word processing, on XT-clones, I was an old hand at it. I had great games, sixteen out of five-hundred and twelve glorious colors while they had a sickly cyan and pink world to contend with. Eventually, things started to change. I discovered programming and purchased a cheap XT-clone to learn C on and enter the larger world of MS-DOS and big blue. At the same time I was finding the 1040 too confining, a megabyte of memory too little, so I had (that is I convinced) my family buy a Mega ST2, as well as a Megafile 30. For a time I was content with the Atari again.

Meanwhile, I was not content with my XT. EGA graphics and a thirty megabyte hard disk were taking their toll on the 4.77 MHz machine. Because of memory chip speed problems as well as the fact that they were soldered into the board, a speed upgrade was impossible. Ultimately, the clone was sold and a 12 MHz 80286 clone was brought in and with it a slew of more problems all stemming from a bad hard disk controller card.

As I was experimenting with the AT clone I began to notice things about my Atari, problems made more evident when I purchased a laser printer. My friends at school were asking me whether or not I had a Mac of and IBM. I found myself uncomfortable explaining how it is that I have an Atari, telling the same old story of the Atari computer, one of

success in Europe, lack of advertising and sales in America, my friends nodding there heads along the way.

Recently, my family made another jump up with the IBM clone, all the way up to a 25 MHz 80386 clone. We now have a total of ninety megabytes of hard disk space, three megabytes of memory, and super VGA graphics (800x600x256 colors). I want to make a similar jump with the Atari, but find that I really can't. Even when the TT does come out, it is still inferior technologically. A pallet of 4096 colors with such a relatively low resolution? Even my 1024x768 has 16 colors available. Maybe I will be able to plug in VME graphics card, but what software will support it? Speaking of software, what about it? Will I be able to multitask if I want to? What about simple program switching? And for me, the most important of all, what about the games? Where is LHX, Blockout, Budokan, Mechwarrior, and A-10 for the Atari? Will they ever be out for the Atari? Even so, how will they look? Can the best that Atari can do compare to VGA/MCGA? When I get a sound card for the IBM, can the sound from the ST compare as well?

When the TT finally does come out, Atari will have to sell it to me. I will treat it as if I had no knowledge of it prior to its introduction to the market. If I see no newspaper, magazine, or TELEVISION ads, it will not exist to me. As for my Mega, I will probably let it fade away and move all of my tasks over to the 386. Sure the software is generally more expensive in terms of productivity software, but in some ways it might be better. It has been said many times on many bulletin boards that if the computer you own does what you want it to, then it is the right computer. The Atari ST for me is no longer the right computer. I would really like to move on to another, greater Atari computer, but Atari Corp. has left me no option; I see no reason to wait for a dream to condense into a reality.

David Gaxiola

J.E.DONOHUE;

I doubt if anybody is hanging out here in hopes of a resurgence by Atari U.S. For MOST users, all we have left is each other, ala the 8 bit users. Someday maybe we can all look back with perspective and have some justifiable answers and opinions as to what went wrong.

Did the user base never reach it's full potential because Atari did not effectively market (in the U.S.) and get the ST machines and related products into more homes, businesses/schools?

Did Atari not market the ST (in the U.S.) because the user base wasn't strong enough? Or did we all get caught up in the forever changing computer technologies?

Not easy to keep up with it financially...but that's true of ALL computer users. Never will I bore the readers of this thread with "Bye ya'll.....I've had it...I'm off to buy a Mac/Amiga/Clone". If and when that day ever comes, I'll simply do it. No fanfare. I doubt if one more user will be missed.

I estimate that 90% of my hardware and software was purchased from my friendly (now non-existent) local dealers. What concerns me the most (as mentioned in my previous post) is what about ME...the end user? You have to admit...it IS nice to see a product (be it hardware or software) before



you buy. Thank God for software demo's and the folks who frequent these areas and write for the trade publications offering reviews. Pity the folks who are not members of either GENie, CIS, Delphi, etc. whose local dealer/service center is gone, and the next closest one is 200 miles (and maybe the next state!) away. Think about it.

john

T.MCCOMB posts;

No way is ComputerLand or BusinessLand going to touch any Atari product. The Atari Advantage is dead for 1990, that includes XMAS 1990. You're not going to see it in Sears, JC Penny or KMart. It wasn't at CES. They didn't place orders with Atari, they placed orders elsewhere.

I'm not saying the product is bad, we all know the product is great. It's just that Atari has never supported an assault on the US market and anything they do now is too little and way too late.

S.COLLER [Steve]

at 11:39 CDT

#### REALITY CHECK

It seems to be long passed time for U.S. ST users to face reality. For the past 3+ years we have been hearing repeated calls for Atari to get active in the U.S. market before it was too late. We have heard repeated comments from Atari officials that "This is the year for Atari," or that all new equipment would now be unveiled in the U.S.

Folks, Atari is not dying in the U.S. market - it is in fact already dead. We U.S. users just refuse to accept the demise. Let's look at some facts:

- (1) Atari has yet to launch a national campaign for the ST's. The only national advertizing that has been done has been for the Portfolio and the Lynx.
- (2) Atari has never had an over abundance of dealers and has been losing those that it does/did have rather rapidly over the past 3 years.
- (3) From an outsider's point of view it appears that Atari has absolutely no faith in its own product. Or perhaps they are just ignorant of just how good the ST's really are.
- (4) Lack of third party support. Software and hardware developers, the life-blood of any computer system, have been leaving Atari even faster than dealers.
- (5) Dealers that have hung on have difficulty getting products to sell.

I was in a computer bookstore last night and did a quick survey of ST vs Amiga related magazines. There were 8 Amiga mags and 1 ST. Which one would you judge to have more third party support? Were we to hook Atari U.S. up to an EKG machine to monitor it's life signs, we would see a flat line and no one around to administer CPR.

Do I plan on trashing my ST system? Heavens no! There isn't another system available that offers the power and versatility at the price of the ST. For instance, in the area of DTP nothing can come close to the ST and PageStream. I've looked at PageMaker on both IBM's and MAC's and find it hard to believe people are willing to live like that. This article is not meant to be a flame on the ST. Even at a dated 8mhz the ST is still an impressive machine. And given the large number of users around the country that are still working with 8-bit systems, there are a lot of people around that would still view 8mhz as warp speed.

My background is not one of business; it is behavioral science and law enforcement. I tend to look more at what individuals do/did than what they say/said they would do/did. Talk after all is cheap. It is therefore, my conclusion that Atari U.S., as a viable, and active participant in the U.S. computer marketplace, is dead. Can it be revived? Not unless it wants to be, and since the evidence leads to the conclusion that this was a suicide, I would have to say the the prospects of resurrection are highly unlikely. Steve Collier President Central Missouri Atari Group Columbia, MO

T.MCCOMB posts;

You pretty much nailed it on the head, Steve. Atari Computer Division, in the US, is dead. IT will continue in europe for awhile but the USA is dead. The entertainment division will follow suit once the competition hits the streets. Can you say NEC?

I'm not abandoning my ST, either. It serves me well. However there is no way I could reccomend one to anyone else.

It's really a shame. 1990 is gone. They blew the last shot at 1990 by cancelling the Atari Advantage package at CES. June CES is where the mass market people place their Xmas orders. None were placed, none will be sold in 1990. Does ally think it will be better or different in 1991? Ron Luks of CompuServe told a sad story. While at CES he approached 4 Atari Reps and asked where he could find the STEs. They didn't know. He found a fifth one that did, he pointed him in the right direction. He found a row of four STEs with an Atari Rep seated at one, playing a game. He asked the rep about the features of the STE. The Rep replied 'I don't know anything about them, I'm just playing a game'.

Simply amazing.

As one can readily see, many folks have just about run out of patience with the Tramiel sons, who have in effect used Atari Corp. as a learning platform in "how to conduct one's self miserably in business". Please dear readers don't ask that we look the other way while the Katzenjammer do their utmost best to finish the "job".

---

> ONLINE TODAY STReport OnLineâ ¢  
=====

The wires are hummin'!

COMPUSERVE (CIS)

STR'S ROVING REPORTER  
=====

by Oscar Steele

This week I'll begin coverage of CompuServe (CIS). There are a number of differences between GENie and CompuServe, some are obvious, such as the hourly connect charges (GENie charges \$5/10 per hour compared to CIS's \$6/12 per hour). Other differences are more subtle. All in all, both networks have their strengths and weaknesses.

The first thing I noticed is that CIS is quick, noticeably quicker than GENie. CIS responds almost immediately to a request. On GENie, there are a few seconds of pause here and a few seconds there. They add up over a session. I have also been told by several people that downloading is also quicker on CIS; however, I have yet to test CIS's downloading to verify this. So, it's not entirely fair to compare the rates charged straight across the board. They should be balanced by an overall picture of the "real" time it takes to accomplish tasks. That's not to say that GENie is, indeed, more economical, it's just that it's not as simple as looking at the 2 companies' rates.

The message base structure is totally different. This means that it'll take a GENie user a while to get used to CIS (and vice versa). I'd like to spend at least another weeks before doing comparisons on the two networks. I've offered the previous remarks as very first impressions. Some people "choose" a network. However, life is a bit more complicated than just black and white, or yes and no. Each network is unique, like a person. They each have their own personality and individual benefits.

Notes from GENie this week:

Downloads:

A brief mention of mentionable updates: Pinhead 1.7 (#15128), BSTAT 2.36 (#15184), SAT 3.11 (#15441), ICD Host Adapter Utilities - latest version (#15440), DeskSwitch 1.1 (#15419), DCOPY 3.6 (#15339), and Deskmanager 3.3.

Conferences:

This upcoming week there will be two conferences. The first, scheduled for tomorrow, is a special conference at 9pm EDT. A group of BBS Express sysops will meet to discuss topics relating to the product.

The second conference is on the normally scheduled day, Wednesday, June 20th. Guests will include Chet Walters, the author of IMAGE CAT and MUG SHOT, and W. David Parks aka Dr. Bob, author of MVG (MULTIVIEWER GRAPHICA). The conference will be at 10pm EDT.

## Message Area Notice:

Intersect, representative of the current state of Atari's developers, is no longer providing support via GENie. Their past topics have been moved to other categories, where hopefully ST users will offer help and support. See Cat. 1, Topic 8, Message 5 for exact details.

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> Supercharger News STR InfoFileâ € The Best keeps getting BETTER!  
=====

CTSY GENIE

TALON.TECH POSTS:

Thanks for waiting...

I am currently working on our new manual and it should be available in a month or so. I am also working on a compatibility list and disk of "PD" program and custom batch files. The manual and the disk will be available at a small charge to current registered SuperCharger customers.

ICD

ICD has developed a fix for an incompatibility with the ICD Advantage and Advantage Plus host adaptors. The fix includes a combination of software and hardware and sells for \$15.00. If you have one of the older ICD host adaptors you can get a software fix so you don't have to hold the reset button down on your SuperCharger. It should be noted that ICD did not have a defective product but instead made their product compatible with ours. All of this was done at their own costs.

I don't have the hardware fix, but as soon as I have it I will let you know how it works. Some of you have already called and reported ICD's new software for the older host adaptors works great! Great job ICD, thanks!

Midi Support

As of now I know of no plans for supporting Midi. Although I will pass this request along to Beta Systems.

Vertical Lines (Banner)

If a program is set to run in one graphic mode and you run it in another you will see vertical lines. Let's say you have a program set to run in monochrome and you run it while in CGA color, the program will display vertical lines and lock-up. Some programs can't see CGA color on SuperCharger and will default to Hercules monochrome.

ABIOCON.TOS?

Even though the documentation says this file exists, IT DOES NOT.  
The program ABIO.TOS should be used in it's place.

AutoCAD

AutoCAD does work, although I do not have release 11.

>Richard Betson  
>Talon Technology Inc.

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> STReport CONFIDENTIALâ € Sayin' it like it is.....  
=====

- London, UK TOS 1.4 BOOTLEGGED IN THE UK?  
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There is a situation in the UK under investigation at this time concerning the packaging of TOS 1.4 in Eprom and Calamus (the US version). It appears that a distributor/dealer in the UK has decided to deep discount Calamus. And since Calamus (the UK version) cannot be obtained cheap enough in the UK to allow the deep discounting, its being imported from the States. Also a rather interesting and familiar program seems to have surfaced in the UK called PROXIMA... A vaguely familiar DTP package. We await the arrival of this Stateside to see just which program this is in a different "jacket".

- Atlanta, GA. PORTFOLIO'S CROSSTALK IN HOLDING PATTERN  
-----

According to sources close to the top, the Atlanta Ga. firm who is involved with the development of Crosstalk, (Top Notch TeleComm Program for MS DOS), for the Portfolio has suspended all activities for the time being. Apparently there is a strong disagreement over who will distribute the new version of Crosstalk which was rewritten expressly for the Portfolio.

- Los Angeles, CA. BORLAND RELEASES TURBO C ++ VER. 2  
-----

- Turbo C++ 1.0 Compiler (NEW)

- Turbo Profiler 2.0 (NEW)
- Turbo Assembler 2.0 (UPGRADE)
- Turbo Debugger 2.0 (UPGRADE)

Turbo C++ 1.0 is a new product, not an upgrade from Turbo C 2.0, but a promotional offer is in place for Turbo C 2.0 users that may want to purchase Turbo C++. Upgrade offers are available for the Turbo C and Turbo Pascal Professional packages, and for Turbo Debugger, Turbo Profiler and Turbo Assembler as one package deal. The Turbo Profiler package is an upgrade to the Turbo Debugger/Turbo Assembler package.

- Boston, MA.

BOB BRODIE KEEPS THE TROOPS HAPPY!

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Bob "on the road again" Brodie will be making an unscheduled visit to the Boston area this Friday. He relates ...One of our dealers, The Bit Bucket is having an Atari day on Saturday, June 16th at their store in Newton. Atari has decided to send me as the "factory rep" for this event. I'll be arriving in Boston on Friday afternoon, which just happens to be the day of the South Shore Atari Group meeting. I've been in touch with the members of the South Shore Group as well as the members of the Boston Computer Society. So, I hope if your in the New England area, you can stop by! The South Shore Group meets at the Super Stop & Shop, 495 Southern Artery in Quincy at 7:00PM.

Please contact Norman Boucher, Jr. at 617-361-0590 for further information or call the Bit Bucket in Newton, at 617-964-3080.

regards,

Bob Brodie

\*\*\*\*\*

:HOW TO GET YOUR OWN GENIE ACCOUNT:

\_\_\_\_\_

To sign up for GENie service: Call: (with modem) 800-638-8369.

Upon connection type HHH (RETURN after that).

Wait for the U#= prompt.

Type: XTX99587,CPUREPT then, hit RETURN.

\*\*\*\* SIGN UP FEE WAIVED \*\*\*\*

The system will now prompt you for your information.

\*\*\*\*\*

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... Knobby Walsh

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